



## Representative W. David Guice

North Carolina House of Representatives  
District 113



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**Brevard, North Carolina** – Representative W. David Guice responds to concerns and accusations, which appeared in the March 13 edition of the Hendersonville Times-News, regarding his sponsorship of House Bill 547.

"I have spent the last 32 years of my professional career serving the citizens of North Carolina. I have also served the citizens of Transylvania County in the role as a County Commissioner for 8 years, to include one term as Vice-Chairman and one term as Chairman. During this time I started a family business in Brevard that I owned and operated for 20 years. Past experiences have taught me how to be a good listener and how to work through difficult problems while identifying solutions to these issues. A large part of that success is bringing all stakeholders together and having an open and honest dialogue about the issues. These are characteristics that I bring to this responsibility as your newly elected legislative member" said David Guice. "I expect there to be disagreements over certain issues among colleagues; however, I also expect those disagreements to be handled with a level of professionalism. For any of my colleagues to characterize my sponsorship of a bill as a "freshman mistake" is irresponsible and professionally inappropriate. I am simply listening to the needs of the people and working to resolve this matter in a mutually acceptable manner. I have been elected to represent the citizens of District 113, which includes Transylvania County, Henderson County and Polk County, in Raleigh – and that is what I am doing."

This bill seeks to allow more flexibility in the creation of the school calendar. Specifically, it changes the existing law to allow the start of the academic year to take place after the second Monday in August. Additionally, under the proposed changes the last possible student day would be no more than 42 weeks after the start date. Similar pieces of legislation have either been entered or supported this session by a majority of members from throughout Western North Carolina.

"Prior to the beginning of this session I sat down with educational leaders throughout District 113 to discuss issues and concerns facing our schools on a daily basis" said David Guice. "There were many concerns expressed by administrators and teachers but a clear and consistent issue was that of the school calendar. This is definitely an issue in our region and for anyone to ignore that is simply a show of disregard for the people's concerns."

"There are several key issues surrounding the educational side of this debate. First, it is imperative that our high school students be able to finish their exams prior to the Christmas holidays. Second, it is important for our high schools and our community colleges to be able to work together on scheduling so that our students can take advantage of dual-enrollment opportunities. Finally, local control is a significant key to the success of our public school systems throughout this area" said Guice.

"I also understand the business side of this issue" said Guice. "The camp and tourism industries are vitally important to the economic stability of this region and I understand that. I also understand how important it is to have an open dialogue about issues facing our district. I am committed to facilitating discussions between all stakeholders on this issue. Compromise and communication will be the major keys to success here."

"I have experience working with groups on the local, regional and statewide level to resolve issues" said David Guice. "I have owned a business in Transylvania County for the better part of 20 years and I understand completely how important tourism is to our region. After meeting with educational leaders I also understand the negative impact the current law has on our students and teachers in the classroom."

"The proposed changes allow for flexibility and the opportunity for dialogue to reach an agreeable compromise for all stakeholders on a local level. Each group has to be willing to come to the table and talk openly and honestly about this issue. With that sort of communication we can make this work and have this be positive for both the business side of the issue and the educational side of the issue."



**Representative W. David Guice**  
North Carolina House of Representatives  
District 113



Release: **Immediate**  
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**Brevard, North Carolina** – Representative W. David Guice updates the citizens of District 113 about his efforts to create an environment of conversation around House Bill 547 and the issue of school calendar flexibility. Specifically, this bill seeks to allow more flexibility in the creation of the school calendar for education leaders in Transylvania County, Henderson County and Polk County.

“Earlier this afternoon I communicated with all three Economic Development Directors in District 113” said David Guice. “I have asked them to help me facilitate a conversation with all stakeholders in the issue of locally based school calendar flexibility, to include business leaders, camp leaders, education leaders, parents and students. I have asked the Economic Development Directors to work with me to set this meeting up within the next few weeks and I believe the sooner we have this meeting and begin this conversation the better it will be for everyone.”

“After discussions, prior to the session starting, I have heard and understand the importance and complexities of this issue from the educational standpoint” said Guice. “As a small business owner in Brevard I understand the importance of this issue from a business and tourism perspective. My goal, throughout my career, has been to listen to people and work to reach solutions to difficult problems. I strongly believe this open and honest dialogue is important to the resolution of this issue. It is my hope that all stakeholders will be willing to come to the table, discuss this problem and find a mutually agreeable solution.”

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